



Background Brief: Kenneth H. Finch

President and Founder

In late 2005 Ken Finch founded Green Hearts as one of the country's first non-profit conservation organizations entirely dedicated to restoring and strengthening the bonds between children and nature.

Green Hearts' philosophy is grounded in research that reveals that frequent, unstructured childhood play in natural areas is the most common influence on the development of life-long conservation values, while it simultaneously supports children's social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and creative development.

Ken has been working in the environmental education profession since 1974. He has experience as a "front-line" educator, as a senior manager in two children's museums, and as the Executive Director of two of the country's largest nature centers, leading each through periods of dramatic growth and success. Along the way, he supervised two nature/science preschools and advised on the development of three others. Ken's non-profit leadership experience has involved all aspects of administration and management as well as fundraising, public and scholastic education, and land management.

Immediately prior to starting Green Hearts, Ken served as a Vice President of the National Audubon Society, leading their Minnesota state office. He holds a masters degree in environmental education from Antioch - New England Graduate School, and a bachelors degree in sociology and psychology from Dickinson College.

Ken has long been a volunteer with the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA), including two years as its national President and a total of seven years on its Board of Directors. Ken has also served on state environmental education boards in Minnesota and Connecticut, has been a frequent keynote presenter at regional and national conferences, and has served as a consultant with over two dozen nature centers and similar organizations. Awards he has received include "Excellence in Science Education" from the National Science Teachers Association, the "President's Award" from ANCA, and regional recognition from the U.S. Department of Education as an "Education Hero".

Ken is a single parent with two great sons. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where Green Hearts is headquartered.

Green Hearts INC

Offices shared with Big Muddy Workshop

4502 South 42nd St., Omaha, NE 68107-1059

office: 402-344-8711 cell: 402-301-9615 Fax 402-334-8712

www.greenheartsinc.org kfinch@greenheartsinc.org

Bringing Children and Nature Back Together